

Amended Claims

Applicant requests that all of the claims (1 to 20) of record be cancelled and the following new claims be entered into the record.

Claim 21 (new): An apparatus for steering control of a water craft by operator body motion commands, said water craft having at least one flat hull cross-member having an upper surface, wherein the water craft is propelled by an outboard motor having a first vertical axis, said apparatus comprising:

- a. a swivel seat for accepting said body steering commands, said swivel seat comprising swivel means for rotation about a second vertical axis and a bottom surface, wherein the swivel seat has:
 - i. a first disengaged mode wherein the body motion commands are not transmitted to said outboard motor; and,
 - ii. a second engaged mode wherein the body motion commands are transmitted to the outboard motor;
- b. means for moving the swivel seat from said first disengaged mode to said second engaged mode and back again to the first disengaged mode; and,
- c. means for transmitting the body motion commands to the outboard motor, whereby the body motion commands are translated into steering commands causing the outboard motor to pivot in a desired direction about the first vertical axis.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said swivel means comprises:

- a. a first swivel co-axial with the second vertical axis and mounted by mounting means to said at least one flat hull cross-member upper surface; and,
- b. a second swivel co-axial with said second vertical axis and mounted by mounting means between said first swivel and said bottom surface of said swivel seat.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said engagement means comprises:

- a. a first control member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first control member first end is mounted by mounting means between the first swivel and the swivel seat bottom surface, and wherein a slotted sleeve is fixed to said first control member second end;
- b. a second control member having a first end and a second end, wherein said second control member first end is mounted by mounting means between the first swivel and the second swivel, and wherein said second control member second end has an aperture and said aperture co-axial with said slotted sleeve;
- c. a retractable biased engagement pin slidably mounted within the slotted sleeve, said pin having an engagement end and:
- d. a first retracted position wherein said engagement end is disengaged from the aperture resulting in the swivel seat being in its first disengaged mode; and,
- e. a second engaged position wherein the engagement end is engaged with the aperture thereby coupling the first control member to the second control member resulting in the swivel seat being in its second engaged position so that the first and second control members rotate dependently, the result being that rotation of the swivel seat about the second vertical axis causes identical rotation of the second control member about the second vertical axis.

Claim 24 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein means for transmitting the body motion commands to the outboard motor comprises a connecting member having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is connected by first connecting means to the second control member, and wherein said second end is connected by second connecting means to the outboard motor, so that movement of the second control member about the second vertical axis is transmitted by said connecting member to the outboard motor and translated into sympathetic movement of the outboard motor about said first vertical axis.

- Claim 25 (new):** The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein the first swivel comprises:
- a. a first upper mounting plate mounted by mounting means to said bottom surface of said seat body;
 - b. a first lower mounting plate; and,
 - c. a first circular bearing track disposed between said first lower mounting plate and said first upper mounting plate, said first circular bearing track including a first plurality of bearings disposed in the first circular bearing track, said first plurality of bearings permitting rotation of the first lower mounting plate with respect to the first upper mounting plate; and wherein the second swivel comprises:
 - d. a second upper mounting plate mounted by mounting means to said first lower mounting plate;
 - e. a second lower mounting plate mounted by mounting means to said upper surface of said at least one hull cross-member; and,
 - f. a second circular bearing track disposed between said second lower mounting plate and said second upper mounting plate, said second circular bearing track including a second plurality of bearings disposed in the second circular bearing track, said second plurality of bearings permitting rotation of the second lower mounting plate with respect to the second upper mounting plate.

- Claim 26 (new):** The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the swivel seat comprises:
- a. a horizontal seating platform having a left side and a right side, said horizontal seating platform contoured for receiving the buttocks of an operator;
 - b. an upward sloping left side member fixed to said left side of the horizontal seating platform, wherein said left side member is adjacent to the left thigh of an operator and contoured to receive the contour of the left thigh of an operator;
 - c. an upward sloping right side member fixed to said right side of the horizontal seating platform, said right side member positioned adjacent

- to the right thigh of an operator and contoured to receive the contour of the right thigh of an operator, and;
- d. a backrest fixed to the horizontal seating platform, said backrest adapted for pivoting adjustment about a first horizontal axis for operator comfort.

Claim 27 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein the first control member comprises a first plate having a longitudinal axis, said first plate having a paddle shape, said paddle shape comprising four contiguous and congruent portions comprising a shaft portion, a throat portion, a blade portion and tip portion, wherein:

- a. said shaft portion has a first end having a first width, a first side and a second, wherein said first side and said second side are parallel and wherein said first end is disposed perpendicular between the first side and the second side;
- b. said throat portion has a third side and a fourth side, wherein said third side and said fourth side are incurvate;
- c. said blade portion has a fifth side and a sixth side, wherein said fifth side and said sixth side are arcuate, and,
- d. said tip portion is linear and disposed between the fifth side and the sixth side, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and parallel to said first end.

Claim 28 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the shaft portion includes an aperture located adjacent to the first end and upon the longitudinal axis.

Claim 29 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the blade portion includes:

- a. a first elongate aperture having a first aperture longitudinal axis, wherein said first aperture longitudinal axis has a first acclivity of about negative 45 degrees from the first control member longitudinal axis, and further wherein said first elongate aperture is located close to the fifth side; and,

- b. a second elongate aperture having a second aperture longitudinal axis, wherein said second aperture longitudinal axis has a second acclivity of about positive 45 degrees from the first control member longitudinal axis, and further wherein said second elongate aperture is located close to the sixth side.

Claim 30 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein the blade portion is mounted between the bottom surface of the seat body and the second rectangular upper mounting plate.

Claim 31 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said second control member comprises a second flat plate having a second flat plate longitudinal axis, a top surface and a bottom surface, wherein said second flat plate has a substantially keystone shape including a flat bottom side, a lower left corner, a lower right corner, an arcuate top side, a top left corner, a top right corner, a left side inclined away from said second flat plate horizontal axis, and a right side inclined away from the second flat plate horizontal axis.

Claim 32 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said second control member further includes:

- a. a first elongate aperture located proximate to said lower left corner;
- b. a second elongate aperture located proximate to said lower right corner;
- c. a third aperture located proximate to said left side, said third aperture including a raised collar;
- d. a fourth aperture located adjacent to said third aperture and proximate to said left side, said fourth aperture including a raised collar;
- e. a fifth elongate aperture located proximate to said top left corner;
- f. a sixth elongate aperture located proximate to said top right corner; and,
- g. a seventh aperture located at the top end of the longitudinal axis of the second control member.

Claim 33 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein the second control member further includes:

- a. a first rectangular projection projecting from said top left corner;
- b. a second rectangular projection projecting from the middle of said arcuate top surface along the said longitudinal axis; and,
- c. a third rectangular projection projecting from said top right corner, wherein said first, second and third rectangular projections are adapted as sighting guides so that an operator can visually guide the third control member into engagement with the second control member.

Claim 34 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein the second control member is mounted by mounting means between the first rectangular upper mounting plate and the second rectangular lower mounting member.

Claim 35 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein said means for transmitting said body use motion commands from the seat body to said outboard motor comprise:

- a. a connecting member having a first threaded end and a second threaded end;
- b. first means for connecting said connecting member first threaded end to the second control member; and,
- c. first means for connecting said connecting member second threaded end to the outboard motor.

Claim 36 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said first means for connecting the connecting member first end to the second control member comprises a bracket comprising:

- a. a base having a threaded aperture adapted to receive the connecting member first threaded end;
- b. a first tine fixed to said base, said first tine having an first arcuate free end, said first arcuate free end having a first tine first aperture;
- c. a second tine fixed to the base opposite to and parallel to said first tine, said second tine having a second arcuate free end, said second arcuate free end having a second tine second aperture wherein the bracket is adapted to receive the left side of the

control member between the first and second tines, and wherein said first tine first aperture and said second tine second aperture are co-axially aligned with the control plate third aperture; and,

- d. a second pin member adapted for releasable engagement within the co-axially aligned first tine first aperture, second tine second aperture and second control member third aperture thereby fixing the connecting member first end to the second control member in a pivoting relationship.

Claim 37 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein the connecting member first end is fixed to the second control plate fourth aperture in a pivoting relationship.

Claim 38 (new): The apparatus as claimed in claim 37, wherein said second means for connecting the connecting member second end to the outboard motor comprises a second bracket comprising:

- a. a second base having a second threaded aperture adapted to receive the connecting member second threaded end;
- b. a third tine fixed to said second base, said third tine having an third arcuate free end, said third arcuate free end having a third tine third aperture;
- c. a fourth tine fixed to the second base opposite to and parallel to said third tine, said fourth tine having a fourth arcuate free end, said fourth arcuate free end having a fourth tine fourth aperture;
- d. a bracket arm having a longitudinal axis, a first half and a second half, said first half having at least two apertures positioned vertically; said second half having at least two apertures positioned vertically and one threaded longitudinal bore adapted to receive a threaded rod;
- e. a friction clamp adapted to clamp around the vertical shaft casing of said outboard motor, said friction clamp having a collar portion adapted to frictionally engage said vertical shaft casing and two adjacent and parallel arms apertured to receive said threaded rod;
- f. a throttling nut adapted for threaded engagement onto the threaded rod so that said two adjacent and parallel arms are between said throttling nut and said bracket

second end, so that when the throttling nut is rotated towards the bracket second end the two adjacent and parallel arms are compressed together thereby tightening the collar about the vertical shaft casing; and,

- g. a pin for releasably pinning the bracket first end between the third tine and the fourth tine in a pivoting relationship.